

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01021 220728Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6948

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1021

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA/ARN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SY
SUBJ: SYRIAN JEWRY

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM FEB. 20 AND 21, SELIM TOUTAH
STATED COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO BE VERY CONCERNED AND NERVOUS
OVER POSSIBLE ACTION BY SYRIAN STATE SECURITY COURT AGAINST
COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO TRAVELED ILLEGALLY TO ISRAEL DURING
TRIPS OUTSIDE SYRIA. PRESIDENCY RECENTLY PASSED THIS
DOSSIER TO SECURITY COURT TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION THE LAW
MIGHT REQUIRE.

2. COLONEL MESSAOUD, MILITARY SECURITY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE
FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, WHO PREPARED ORIGINAL REPORT
FOR PRESIDENT ON THIS SUBJECT, HAS SPOKEN WITH PUBLIC
PROSECUTOR OF SECURITY COURT AND URGED THAT NO COURT
PROCEEDING IS NECESSARY. BUT DECISION NOT YET TAKEN,
MEANWHILE, NEAR BAN ON APPROVAL OF PASSPORTS FOR
JEWISH COMMUNITY MEMBERS CONTINUES.

3. TOUTAH SAID THAT VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE ADULT MALE
JEWISH COMMUNITY TURNED OUT TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENT ASSAD
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IN THE FEB. 8 REFERENDUM. A FEW WOMEN ALSO VOTED BUT
MOST DID NOT, IN KEEPING WITH COMMUNITY TRADITION. TOUTAH
ALSO SENT CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM BUT IN RETROSPECT
BELIEVES HE MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY BY NOT REQUESTING
AUDIENCE TO PRESENT PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS.

4. TOUTAH INFORMED US WITH REGRET THAT MOTHER OF YABO GIRL

WHO MARRIED RECENTLY IN BROOKLYN AND WHO IS UNABLE TO OBTAIN
PERMISSION TO ATTEND WEDDING PASSED AWAY ON SAME DAY AS
MARRIAGE.
MURPHY

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NNN

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